Floating of infrastructure bonds

782. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of financial institutions allowed to float infrastructure bonds during the last three years ending 31st March, 2006;

(b) the amount collected by each institution during the period year-wise and the rate of interest paid to the investors during the same period, years-wise; and

(c) the areas in which investment was utilised and is proposed to be utilized for the development of infrastructure during the above period and in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Deposit in Post Office Savings Bank Accounts

783. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(A) the deposits in the Post Office savings bank accounts in the country as on 31st March, 2006, postal circle-wise and how do they compare with those at the end of previous two years;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the maximum limit of rupees one lakhs in such accounts as most of the citizens in the rural areas have their deposits in such accounts, if so, to what extent; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, in view of the rate of interest of 3.5 per cent per annum in such accounts being below the current inflation rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL):(a) The deposits under the Post Office Savings Bank Account scheme (POSA) at the close of 31.03.2006 is Rs. 16790 crore. Postal circle-wise details for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Post Office Savings Bank account is intended for small investors. Interest is tax free. There is no proposal at present under consideration of the Government to increase the existing deposit ceiling under the scheme.

The interest rate on small savings schemes, including POSA are being reviewed from time to time. The last revision of the interest rates was made with effect from 1.3.2003 on the basis of recommendations of an Expert Committee (2001) chaired by Dr. Y.V. Reddy, the then Dy. Governor, Reserve Bank of India.

Statement

Postal Circle-wise Balances Under Post Office Saving Bank Accounts Scheme

Sl.No.	Name of circle	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Andhra Pradesh	624.13	731.07	789.75
2.	Assam	360.72	413.46	469.12
3.	Bihar	1027.38	1187.37	1243.47
4.	Base	40.21	46.46	50.71
5.	Delhi	449.1	572.44	710.13
6.	Gujarat	860.31	1045.85	1112.13
7.	Haryana	362.46	357.78	369.56
8.	Himachal Pradesh	248.41	279.32	307.76
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	153.99	168.05	184.24
10.	Karnataka	539.52	678.04	810.56
11.	Kerala	301.47	369.1	378.12
12.	Maharashtra	1001.79	1166.84	1366.96
13.	Madhya Pradesh	571.64	649.46	627.64
14.	North East	208.41	215.63	223.21
15.	Orissa	429.44	467.19	498.47
16.	Punjab	749.37	828.89	905.04
17.	Rajasthan	471.55	530.37	589.04
18.	Tamil Nadu	851.93	1015.04	1058.5

Sl.No.	Name of circle	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
19.	Uttar Pradesh	2291.81	2512.09	2737.23
20.	West Bengal	1540.21	1656.57	1889.94
21.	Chhattisgarh	122.4	170.64	192.2
22.	Jharkhand	63.42	105.34	116.12
23.	Uttranchal	97.66	133.78	159.86
	TOTAL :	13367.33	15300.78	16789.96

Agitation of Central Bank Employees

784. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the agitation of Central Bank Employees for the Past 25 days over certain grievances;

(b) whether the bilateral practice has been given up, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for violating bipartite agreement between employees and management; and

(d) the concrete steps for redressal of employees grievances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Central Bank of India has reported that even during the currency of employee's formal and informal discussions have been held with the employees unions and there has been no violation of bipartite agreement entered into with the majority union for award staff. The management of the bank has already indicated its readiness to have further rounds of discussions to sort out the issues through bilateral forum.

Decline in rural credit

785. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a steady decline in rural credit to small and medium peasants from Government banks and cooperative societies since the beginning of the economic reforms in early 1990s;